

FOR A.M. RELEASE
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FROM THE OFFICE OF
U.S. SENATOR THOMAS J. DODD
(D.-CONN.)

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 2.- In a statement issued today from his office, Senator Thomas J. Dodd (D.-Conn.) urged that the United Nations follow up on the cease fire in Katanga by taking certain measures to reestablish confidence and trust between the UN forces and the people of Katanga.

Specifically, Senator Dodd urged

- that Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien should be replaced as UN representative in Katanga;
- that the Ghurka units, which constitute the bulk of the UN army forces in Katanga, should be replaced;
- that the Department of State and the United Nations should voluntarily call for an investigation of reported atrocities by UN troops by an impartial committee of the International Red Cross;
- that the UN warn the Leopoldville government that constitutional issues in the Congo are to be resolved by peaceful means, and that it would not tolerate military aggression against Katanga;
- that the UN forces should be evenly distributed in the Congo provinces rather than being concentrated in Katanga, because this concentration strongly suggests that the UN contemplates some kind of forceful action or threat of force against Katanga.

The text of Senator Dodd's statement follows:

"The Department of State is to be congratulated for its initiative in calling for the cease fire in Katanga and for the part which it played in helping to bring this cease fire about.

"The cease fire lays the ground work for a return to sanity in the Congo, and it gives us the needed time for a reappraisal of the entire situation. The United Nations can emerge with great honor from the Congo situation if it follows up on the cease fire with other measures that are indicated.

"Among other things, it is essential to take certain measures to reestablish confidence and trust between the UN forces and the people of Katanga. The UN Army cannot properly perform its mission as an army of peace if it is regarded with hatred by the populace of the territory into which it has been sent.

To what extent Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien was responsible for the mishandling of the Katanga situation, it is impossible to say. But since he is regarded with suspicion and hatred by the government and people of Katanga, it is obvious that Dr. O'Brien is no longer the man to represent the UN in a mission of persuasion vis-a-vis the Katanga government. Dr. O'Brien therefore should be replaced.

The Ghurka units, which constitute the bulk of the Indian Army forces in Katanga, should also be replaced. According to reports from various sources, the Ghurkas are hated by the local population, and this hatred is reciprocated by the Ghurkas. Their continued presence in Katanga can only result in continued friction between the UN and the local populace. Their presence, in short, will militate against the peaceful negotiation of outstanding disputes.

I believe that the UN, as a matter of general procedure, should not employ mercenary troops in any of its operations. The term "mercenary" has been applied in an invidious sense to the Belgian and other white officers serving with the Katanga forces. Many of these have lived in Katanga most of their lives,

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"and, whether they are right or wrong, there is no gainsaying that they believe in what they are fighting for. The Ghurkas, on the other hand, are mercenaries pure and simple, who, as Nepalese nationals, have sold their services to the Indian Army, as they once used to sell their services to the British Army. The Ghurkas make excellent soldiers in time of war; but it is questionable whether these tough but ferocious mercenary soldiers are the right people to represent the United Nations in the delicate Congo situation.

"There were a number of reports in the American press about the brutality of the Ghurka soldiers in the battle of Elizabethville. One of these articles in the New York Herald Tribune described the shooting up of Katanga ambulances and wounded by the Churkas. Within the last few days, I have received a visit from a French national who was in Elizabethville during the period of the fighting. He brought with him an appeal signed by all the European doctors in Elizabethville at that time, protesting against the inhumanity of the UN forces and asking for the assistance of the International Red Cross.

"The Department of State and the United Nations would be well advised to join in calling for an investigation of this entire situation by an impartial committee of the International Red Cross, and I urge that our Government request such an investigation. If the charges are false, the investigation will help to set them at rest. If they are true, it would be a serious error to attempt to cover up the truth in an effort to defend the UN.

"The repeated threats of military action by the Leopoldville government against the government of President Tshombe are matters of grave concern. If the Leopoldville government, under the pressures of Gizenga and General Lundula does embark on aggression against Katanga, this would create a situation fraught with the gravest consequences for the Congo and the UN's peace mission in the Congo.

"There is widespread disappointment over the UN's failure to live up to its mission in the Congo by warning the Leopoldville government that military aggression will not be tolerated and that it is part of the function of the UN to see that constitutional issues in the Congo are resolved by peaceful means. If the UN fails to issue such a warning, it will, by dereliction, share heavily in the responsibility for the bloodshed and chaos that are bound to ensue.

"Finally, the present distribution of UN forces in the Congo is hardly in consonance with the peaceful nature of its mission. So long as the UN maintains over 8,000 men in Katanga and only 1500 in Stanleyville, it will be difficult to escape the related conclusions that the UN contemplates some kind of forceful action or threat of force against Katanga, and that it is not at all concerned about the much more serious danger to the independence of the Congolese people that stems from the occupation of Stanleyville and the surrounding territory by pro-Communist forces."

The UN could take no more effective measure to emphasize its impartiality than to distribute available forces equally between Katanga, Oriental, Leopoldville Kivu, and Kasai Provinces.

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